

WINCHESTER COMMON COUNCIL & WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD  
JOINT MEETING  
March 4, 2014

**DRAFT**

A Joint Meeting of the Winchester Common Council and Winchester School Board was held on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 in the cafeteria at Quarles Elementary School. President John Willingham called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**PRESENT:** President John Willingham; Councilor Jeff Buettner, Evan Clark, John Tagnesi, and Ben Weber; Vice-President Milt McInturff; Mayor Elizabeth Minor; Vice-Mayor Les Veach (8)

**ABSENT:** Councilor John Hill (1)

## **2.0 AGENDA**

### **2.1 Discussion of John Kerr Elementary School:**

School Board Chair Erica Truban presented an update on John Kerr Elementary School. She stated the board had three different options and decided to proceed with the developmental comprehensive agreement with Caldwell and Santmyer. The board is following the same process as it followed before and the timeframe they are targeting is March 17, 2014 and potentially approving it at that meeting. If they are not ready, they will use March 24, 2014 as an alternate date. The planned school opening is in the fall of 2016. Ms. Truban stated the School and City Attorneys along with Vice-Mayor Veach will be involved along the way so that if there is a problem before the March 17, 2014 meeting, they will be well aware. Pricing is still the same and the School Board is confident with the numbers they have.

### **2.2 Budget:**

Ms. Truban stated they will be formally presenting the budget to City Council at the March 25, 2014 work session. The School Board's budget priorities are increase employee compensation (base salaries and/or health insurance benefits), hire an assistant superintendent, and increase academic performance of underachieving students. With the funding stream they have, they are at the mercy of the state with the issues of Medicaid. State funding is expected to increase \$1.259 million after subtracting the \$856,000 for the VRS required contribution from the original increase amount of \$2.115 million. The best guess for federal funding is an expected decrease of \$250,000.

Vice-Mayor Veach asked about the increase in academic request for

instruction only. Ms. Truban stated the number of teachers they hope to get is approximately 20-21.

Councilor Weber asked if the compensation is across the board or a percentage base. Ms. Truban stated the salary scales are based on length of service. As of the most recent work session, they are going to look at a percentage across the board that would include administrative and teachers.

President Willingham asked about the Career Technical Education and how the process is going. Ms. Truban stated that this is another important priority for the board. The board is very happy with the results that have been submitted. But, when they are looking at a class size of 20 odd students at a middle school, where do you go? She asked do you stay with CTE or do you put them on with a classroom teacher that has those classes. She states some decisions the board is not able to make. The next budget work session is March 17<sup>th</sup> and that's when the board will be able to answer some of those questions.

President Willingham asked how the superintendent search is going. Ms. Truban said they just had a presentation about that and said the applicants are very applicable and very strong candidates.

### **2.3 Board Structure:**

Ms. Truban stated the policy is strictly written for compliance and the board would like to take a look at the structure to make it easier on both Council and the School Board.

President Willingham stated he thought it would require a charter change with the City Attorney but that Council would work with the Schools to make it easier.

## **3.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 3.1** MOTION TO CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(a) (29) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE AWARD OF A PUBLIC CONTRACT INVOLVING THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS, INCLUDING INTERVIEWS OF BIDDERS OR OFFERORS, AND DISCUSSION OF THE TERMS AND SCOPE OF SUCH CONTRACT, WHERE DISCUSSION IN AN OPEN SESSION WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE BARGAINING POSITION OR NEGOTIATING STRATEGY OF THE CITY AND PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A) (40) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF RECORDS EXCLUDED FROM CHAPTER 37 OF TITLE 2.2 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION 3 OF §2.2-3705.6

School Board member Ms. Pate moved to convene into executive session at 6:25 p.m. *The motion was seconded by School Board member Mr. Bell then unanimously approved.*

School Board member Ms. Pate moved to reconvene in open session at 7:00 p.m. *The motion was seconded by School Board member Ms. Ford then unanimously approved.*

Upon returning, each member certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed during the closed meeting, and that only those public business matters identified in the motion which convened the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting.

A roll call vote was taken, the ayes and nays being recorded as shown below:

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
Councilor Buettner	Aye
Councilor Clark	Aye
Councilor Hill	Absent
Vice-President McInturff	Aye
Mayor Minor	Aye
Councilor Tagnesi	Aye
Vice-Mayor Veach	Aye
Councilor Weber	Aye
President Willingham	Aye

#### **4.0 ADJOURNMENT**

School Board member Mr. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by School Board member Mr. Bell then unanimously approved.